



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### ESOPHAGEAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS: Esophageal cancer is a disease of the esophageal tube running from the throat to the stomach, regularly resulting in death. The low survival rate associated with esophageal cancer is attributed to diagnoses in the advanced stages of the disease; and

WHEREAS: Esophageal cancer makes up approximately 1 percent of cancer diagnoses in the United States. Though there are many life factors related to the diagnoses of esophageal cancer, the disease is three to four times more common in men than women. However, those suffering from gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) pose a higher risk of developing esophageal cancer; and

WHEREAS: Patients are often unaware that symptoms such as dry coughing, hoarseness, sore throat, or chest pain are indicators of GERD. For this reason, many who are at risk could be suffering from GERD for weeks or months before visiting a physician. When symptoms of GERD persist for a prolonged period, the damage caused by reflux of stomach acid results in Barrett's esophagus and is linked to a higher risk of developing esophageal cancer; and

WHEREAS: Esophageal cancer can best be prevented through early detection. Groups such as the Esophageal Cancer Action Network are actively working to raise public awareness of the connection between GERD and cancer; and

WHEREAS: It is important for all citizens across Georgia, as well as the nation, to be aware of esophageal cancer, its symptoms, and early detection and treatment strategies in order to prevent and manage the disease; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2017 as ESOPHAGEAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia and encourage all Georgians to raise their awareness on this disease.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF